

TORRANCE POLICE DEPARTMENT



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

July 2008

Volume 35

Cautionary Bulletin When calling 9-1-1



Although *most* cell phone carriers within Torrance city limits will route your 9-1-1 call immediately to the Torrance Police Department, it has been brought to our attention through a recent incident that some phone service providers lack this capability which could prove deadly in a true life-or-death emergency. Specifically, those utilizing Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services may be affected. This is a service wherein the consumer utilizes an Internet service provider (ISP) for their phone service – both cellular and land-line. VoIP services are becoming more and more common in today's high-tech electronic market. VoIP services offer all the subscriber's Internet, Phone and Cable service in one package - one consolidated bill. The problem emerges when some of the ISPs route calls –both cellular and land-line, through their clearing houses which can be miles away and in many instances, in another state. Since there are literally dozens of service providers offering VoIP phone services, subscribers are encouraged to check with their phone company provider to be sure that their

9-1-1 calls will in-fact, be routed to the proper authorities should they need an emergency response.

Important: If you are NOT utilizing a VoIP system for phone service, your calls will not be affected. Emergency calls will continue to come directly to the Torrance Police Department for immediate service.

For further information on the concerns with VoIP, simply type the word "VOIP" in your search engine or click on this link: www.td.dgs.ca.gov

For information on other alerts and crime trends, please go to our website at: www.torrancepd.org



REMINDER:

NEW CELL PHONE LAW WILL BE IN EFFECT AS ON JULY 2008

Over the past decade, cell phones have evolved from luxury items to absolute necessities for most on-the-go Americans. Consumers now use cell phones not only for business and personal calls but also to text message, take pictures, and even listen to their favorite music. The omnipresent nature of cell phones is not, however, without a price as the [National Traffic and Highway Safety Administration \(NTHSA\)](http://www.nhtsa.gov) estimates cell phone-related car accidents are on the rise with distracted drivers causing over 25% of all police-reported traffic accidents. Concerned with the impact of cell phone use on driving safety, California lawmakers have enacted cell phone laws banning drivers from using cell phones while driving

Due to the efforts of some legislators to implement a state-wide ban on hand-held cell phone use while driving, such a ban was put into effect when law SB1631 was established. The new law will take effect

July 1, 2008

For more information on this new law, you can visit our website at: www.torrancepd.org

Animal Licensing



According to Torrance Municipal Code 41.3.1., the City of Torrance requires dogs to be licensed in our City if the dog is four months of age or has been in the City for more than 30 days. Dog licenses may be purchased on-line from the PetData licensing center at www.petdata.com you can also link to this site via our webpage: www.torrancepd.org.

City of Torrance Animal License Application are also available at the Animal Control Office. You must provide proof of current rabies vaccinations and sterility certificate and pay the appropriate fee. Licensing unaltered dogs cost \$40 and \$20 for an altered dog. Cats are optional



While required, licensing can also assist in identifying lost animals and returning them to their owners. Since November 2004, over 1,000 lost animals have been returned to their owners mostly due to being properly licensed. For any questions or concerns, please call the Torrance Animal Control at (310) 618-3850. For help on finding your lost pet visit our website at www.torrancepd.com (under online services)

City of Torrance

Torrance Animal Control

Services provided by Torrance Animal Control

Investigation of cruelty complaints
Stray animal pick-up and patrol
Injured animal pick-up
Investigation of nuisance complaints
Investigation of dangerous dogs
Pet licensing
Humane education
Dead animal pick-up
Enforcement of all animal care laws
Public and animal safety

**For information regarding these or any other services, please call
(310) 618-3850**

Torrance Animal Control is located at
2200 Jefferson
Torrance, CA 90503

You can also e-mail your questions and/or concerns to: animalcontrol@torrnet.com or visit our website www.torrancepd.org (under programs and services)



Animal Disaster Team

The ADT (Animal Disaster Team) was formed to provide care and sheltering of animals impacted by disasters.

During a disaster the ADT serves under the direction of the Torrance Animal Control to provide quality care in a timely, organized manner during a disaster. The mission will vary according to the magnitude of the disaster. The ADT can assist with pets allowing the police department, fire department and other disaster responders to concentrate their efforts on public safety.

We encourage all pet owners to evacuate with their pets.

Learn more about the City of Torrance Animal Disaster Team

ADT General Membership Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Police Department's upstairs Seminar Room, beginning at 7:00 PM. All ADT volunteers and applicants are encouraged to attend .

JOIN THE TEAM

For more information or to join the Animal Disaster Team, please contact:

City of Torrance Emergency Services
3300 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, CA 90503

Phone: (310) 618 - 5725

E-mail: oes@torrnet.com

VACATION TIPS



AT HOME

- Have a good lock on all doors and windows and use them.
- Engrave your valuables with your driver's license number (preceded by a "CA") or other identification number.
- Never leave your house key hidden outside under a doormat, in a flower pot, or on the ledge of a door.
- Stop all deliveries, or arrange for someone to pick up your mail, newspapers, and packages.



The Torrance Police Department also offers Vacation Security Checks to all Torrance residents. While you are away on vacation, officers from the Torrance Police Department will periodically stop by your home to check for open doors, broken windows or any other suspicious circumstances. This is another added security precaution you can utilize to safeguard your possessions and assure your peace of mind while you are on vacation. This is a free, but invaluable service provided by the Torrance Police Department to the citizens of Torrance. To sign up for a Vacation Security Check, log on to our website at www.torrancepd.org and click on either the "Online Services" tab or the "Crime Trends and Prevention" tab. The information requested on the form will be entered into our dispatch system so that our Patrol Officers will be notified at the beginning of their shift and be reminded to check your residence while you are away.

Please feel free to complete the form and submit it so that our officers have the opportunity to provide you with the level of service you deserve as a Torrance resident. If you have any questions regarding this service, you can contact the Community Affairs Division at (310) 618-6391/6392.

ON THE ROAD

- Never carry large amounts of cash; use traveler's checks. If you must carry large sums of money, do not display it openly.
- Keep a record of traveler's check and credit card numbers in a safe place. Have the telephone numbers to all in case your checks or credit cards are lost or stolen.
- Be aware of surroundings and never advertise you plans, including travel routes and amount of cash you are carrying.
- Do not stop to offer help to stranded motorists. Use your cell phone to call for assistance.
- If you suspect someone is following you, drive to the nearest service station, restaurant, or business and call the police or sheriff's department. If you believe it is unsafe to get out of your car, honk your horn and flash your lights to draw attention.
- If your car breaks down, raise your hood and attach a white cloth to the cars antenna as an emergency signal. Stay in your locked car. If you must abandon you car, keep all passengers together.



FROM OUR DETECTIVE DIVISION

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

POSSIBLE "TYDEE DYDEE" VAN SUSPECT VEHICLE

DETAILS: On Monday, April 28th, 2008, during daytime hours, a residential burglary occurred in the area of Sepulveda and Hawthorne. The suspect(s) attempted to gain entry via rear windows and were ultimately successful in forcing the rear sliding glass door off its track to gain entry. The interior of the house was ransacked and the suspect(s) removed a 42" T.V., a 13" T.V. and a laptop from the residence and fled, undetected. A neighbor on an adjacent street later reported observing a suspicious vehicle in the area between 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and while no concrete link has been established, citizens are asked to keep an eye out for the vehicle and to contact Torrance PD immediately if they observe the vehicle.

VEH: White delivery van (UPS style) older, poor condition, "TYDEE DYDEE DIAPER SERVICE" in poss Blu or Grn letters on both sides



Volunteers

Make it
Possible



The
of

Disaster Service Volunteers Ready to Serve

City
Tor-

rance is proud of its nearly 400 Disaster Service Volunteers and wants you to know they are trained and ready to assist in the event of a disaster.

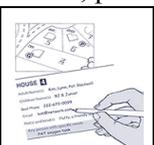
The Police Department's Emergency Services Division, also known as the Office of Emergency Services, manages the City's three Disaster Service Volunteer programs; CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), TARA (Torrance Amateur Radio Association), and ADT (Animal Disaster Team) *please refer to page two of this edition for more information on ADT*

About the *CERT* and *TARA* programs...

CERT educates community members about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available.

TARA provides emergency communications during a major communications outage. Utilizing a seven-band ham station coupled with licensed amateur radio operators stationed throughout the community, TARA ensures vital information is shared among first responders.

If you would like to learn more about the City's Disaster Service Volunteer programs, or on how to become a volunteer, please visit www.torrnet.com/disasterpreparedness



THANK YOU!!!!

The Community Affairs Division would like to thank all Block Captains and Co-Captains that participated in our **Map Your Neighborhood (MYN)** training sessions. We are very excited that some of you have already begun to take this important **Disaster Preparedness** program back to your blocks, and we look forward to working with all of you. If you missed the training sessions, please contact Services Officer Luz Aceves at (310) 618-6392 to find out about our next Train the Trainer session.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Kathi Galbasin and Carolyn Elam for all their hard work.

GO GREEN!!!

SIGN UP TODAY TO RECEIVE FUTURE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTERS BY E-MAIL
E-MAIL YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO laceves@torrnet.com